

TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE	2 JUL
TO:		NIO/AL Heyman	
ROOM NO.	BUILDING		
7262	HQ.		
REMARKS:			
FYI			
FROM			
ROOM NO.	BUILDING		
5843	HQ.		

FORM NO. 241
1 FEB 55

REPLACES FORM 36-8
WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

STAT

STAT

SGMI-SA

24 August 1982

Subject: Trip Report

Prepared by: Sharon A. Watson, USAMIIA

1. Itinerary and Purpose of Trip:

The primary purpose of the trip was to present a 30-minute, scientific paper on Yellow Rain at a joint meeting of the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics and the Society of Toxicology. The presentation was requested by these scientists as part of a Special Symposium entitled, "Current Concerns in Environmental Pharmacology and Toxicology." A secondary purpose for the trip was to meet with participants in the International Symposium on Mycotoxins and Phycotoxins which will be held in September in Vienna, Austria, and prepare our presentation for that meeting.

2. Significant Actions and Details of TDY:a. Sunday:

I met Dr. Mirocha's plane at the Louisville Airport, and after a quick lunch, we got to work on the paper for Vienna. Since the paper to be given there is limited to ten minutes, it was necessary to do an extensive rewrite on the 30 minute paper that we were presenting at the Louisville meeting. I explained to Dr. Mirocha the necessity of getting the paper cleared through channels prior to its presentation or publication. By that evening, we had put together the final draft. This paper will be the basis of Dr. Mirocha's presentation in Vienna and will also be published in the Journal of the Association of Official Analytical Chemists. It emphasizes the chemical analysis of the samples, while the presentation I planned to give in Louisville contained much more toxicological data and background information. The Louisville presentation will also be published in the journal, Federation Proceedings. Dr. Mirocha and I felt that the publication of both papers was advisable. Even though there is some overlap in the data, the emphasis of the two papers is entirely different and both are required to tell the entire story. Journals such as JOAC are reluctant to publish a lot of toxicological data, but will publish the entire GC-MS spectra and other analytical details. On the other hand, Federation Proceedings will publish the toxicological data, but doesn't like to include all of the spectra and other details. Because of the criticism we have received at Congressional Hearings concerning the allegation that the data has not been fully presented to the scientific community, we both felt that the best course of action would be publication of two papers. Both papers are now in final draft and will be cleared through all appropriate channels before release.

Dr. Mirocha and I also discussed at length the problems remaining with sample transfer and analysis and worked out some solutions. He updated me on the analyses in progress and on his experimental work with the toxins in animals.

b. Monday:

The presentation went smoothly and was very well received. The symposium was held in a room which could seat approximately 450. The room was filled and many scientists were standing along the walls and aisles, so the audience

was probably around 500. There were no press. Applause following the presentation was particularly generous. Questions following the paper were limited (because another meeting was scheduled and we had to vacate the room); however, I was literally mobbed outside after the meeting and discussions were lively. Most of the comments were "excellent paper," "impressive study," etc. There was a great deal of concern over what was being done to stop the attacks and over the fact that a treaty apparently had been violated. No skepticism was encountered, although many of the scientists said that they had initially been extremely skeptical and had not taken the charges seriously. Some indicated that the data presented at the meeting changed their minds and that they now agreed that we had conclusive proof that the trichothecenes were components of Yellow Rain.

This meeting was primarily attended by American scientists, but there were quite a few foreign attendees. Representatives were there from England, the Netherlands, West Germany, France, Japan, Egypt, and China. Many interesting papers were presented, particularly in the areas of neuropharmacology and cholinergic pharmacology. Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning I attended a number of papers in those areas as well as an extremely interesting special symposium on Cyanide poisoning. Dr. N. P. Weger from West Germany presented a very informative paper concerned with therapy of cyanide poisoning with DMAP. Dr. W. G. J. Hol of the Netherlands also presented at this symposium.

Abstracts of the papers which I found to be particularly interesting are attached.

3. Conclusions and Recommended Follow-up Actions:

In summary, the trip provided the opportunity for the first time to fully present the Yellow Rain story to the American scientific community. It provided the opportunity for those scientists to examine the data and form their own conclusions. The immediate feedback that I received at the meeting was deep concern and overwhelming support of our conclusions. The scientific data was accepted as convincing and no skepticism was expressed to me, Dr. Mirocha, or Dr. Hayes following the presentation. The question most frequently asked was, "You have convincing proof, now what is the State Department doing about it?" The chairman of the symposium asked if an update could be provided at the next Society of Toxicology meeting in March 1983. Whether or not a formal presentation is given, I feel that this would be a valuable meeting to attend. I obtained a great deal of useful information at this meeting regarding research related to development of chemical/biological antidotes as well as toxin research. The meeting is well attended by foreign researchers in these fields and provides a valuable opportunity for discussion of their research with these scientists.